Mercantile
Money Museum

Mercantile Tower
Seventh & Washington
St. Louis, Mo. 63101
314-421-1819

Charles E. Davis
P.O. Box 1412
Morristown, NJ 07962

July 1, 1993

Dear Mr. Davis:

I am doing biographical research on Joseph Mickley and I wonder if you would be able to help me. In your book, American Numismatic Literature, you refer to a Mickley diary entry concerning the sum he realized for his post-theft collection from Woodward. Do you have a copy of the diary ? How extensive is it ? I have seem numerous references to Mickley keeping journals or diaries but I did not know if it was still extant. Would it be possible to either borrow your copy or have you make a copy to send to me. I would of course be happy to reimburse you any costs incurred. I realize this possibility is right up there with winning the lottery but I thought I would ask.

I would also be most appreciative if you could direct me to the institution which holds a copy as I suspect you used it in an archival or library setting. There are many contradictory assessments of Mickley and I hope the diary will shed some light. Perhaps in your work you may have uncovered facts which could resolve a few contradictions. Cogan claims that Mickley never acquired a 1799 cent in satisfactory condition while his friend at the Mint Mr. DuBois is certain that he did. Yet Mickley did not even bid on the 1799 example in Cogan's Nov. 1858 auction. The 1799 in Cogan's sale realized $7.00. Would you say that price suggested a poor coin ? Further confusion comes from the fact that the Woodward sale of Mickley's coins did not include a 1799 cent. Have you seen a copy of the Moses Thomas auction of coins following Mickley's death ? Cogan and Dubois also disagree on when Mr. Mickley began collecting. Dubois claims it was when Mickley was 17 (1816) while Cogan claims it was 1823. I will be happy to acknowledge your help. If you could shed any light or these contradictions or perhaps direct me to other information on Mickley or Ed Cogan I would be most grateful.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Thomas Serfass
Curator

06/09/1994

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December 2, 1994

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Re: Crosby, Sylvester Sage

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We would like to have the manuscript back within three weeks. If that is not enough time for your review, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

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Thank you for your valuable contribution to this important project. I look forward to receiving the approved manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie Watkins

Leslie Watkins
Copy Chief

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April 24, 1995

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Re: Mickley, Joseph

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Thank you for your valuable contribution to this important project. I look forward to receiving the approved manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer Rozgonyi

Jennifer Rozgonyi
Copy Chief

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American National Biography
Oxford University Press, Cary

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August 17, 1995

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Re: Cogan, Edward

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J. Rozgonyi

Jennifer Rozgonyi
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American National Biography
Oxford University Press

4 December 1995

To: Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

From: Jennifer Rozgonyi, Copy Chief

Re: Cogan, Edward
Crosby, Sylvester Sage

The Cary office of the *American National Biography* has not received the copyedited manuscript(s) sent to you for final approval before typesetting. Because of the large numbers of manuscripts that we must steadily put through the editorial process, it is not feasible for us to photocopy each one before it is sent to an author for review and approval. Although the publication date for the twenty volumes of the *ANB*--summer 1998--may seem a good while off, from now on we need to have ready for typesetting a constant flow of several hundred copyedited manuscripts per month in order to meet our overall production schedule. We therefore ask that you return to the Cary office your copyedited ANB manuscript(s) *as soon as possible*--given the end of the fall semester and the distractions of the holiday season, by 8 January 1996.

If you have recently discussed with a member of the *ANB* staff the delayed return of copyedited material--or have just returned the material--we apologize for making our pleas of urgency redundant. If you are unable to meet the deadline of the 8th (the second Monday in January), please call Debra LeRiche at (919) 677-0977, ext. 5294, so that we can be assured of receiving your copyedited manuscript(s) soon thereafter.

Please send your manuscript(s) to:

Jennifer Rozgonyi
Copy Chief
American National Biography
Oxford University Press
2001 Evans Road
Cary, North Carolina 27513

Thank you for your cooperation, and best wishes for the holiday season.

M E M O R A N D U M

American National Biography
Oxford University Press

5 January 1996

To: Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

From: Jennifer Rozgonyi, Copy Chief

Re: Cogan, Edward
Crosby, Sylvester Sage

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If you have any questions please call (919) 677-0977, extension 5113.

that as soon as he saw another medal going up for sale, he was anxious to call it to the attention of an EACer whom he felt might also be interested in owning one. In the little time left to submit a bid, I rushed off a bid of $40. and was subsequently notified that I had purchased it for $34.65. The second highest bid was for $31.50. Perhaps I outbid some other EACer who was also interested in buying the piece? After all, Joseph J. Mickley was intimately associated with large cents and he was looked upon as "the patron saint of U.S. numismatists".

Since he first obtained his medal at auction, Mr. Williamson says that he has been busy, searching through past numismatic journals and writing various letters of inquiry, to obtain as much information as he could about the medal. So far, he has turned up the following facts:

The first Mickley medal was executed at the Royal Swedish Mint of Stockholm. Both the obverse and reverse dies were engraved by Lea Ahlborn, a noted Swedish female engraver and Chief Medalist of the Royal Swedish Mint. The original medals were struck in silver and first appeared in the United States early in 1879. Later, the dies for the medal were sent to the U.S. and additional medals in bronze were struck in this country for those wishing to obtain one at a price of $2.50 each.

A second striking of the medal was done at some later date, possibly in 1958, to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, although the exact date for re-issue of the medal has not yet been determined. This second striking is the medal which both I and Williamson have purchased. The original obverse by Lea Ahlborn was used in the striking and carries the engraver's "signature" just beneath the bust of Mickley, viz. "Lea Ahlborn, Fec." which translated means "Lea Ahlborn made it." The restruck or second medal measures ½ inch larger in diameter than the original medal, is beautifully and professionally done in yellow bronze, and weighs over a half-pound.

Like Williamson, I share the opinion that the Mickley medal - even though we have the re-strike and not the original, is a delightful addition to one's collection. It is for this reason that the above has been put into PENNY-WISE, for undoubtedly further Mickley medals will be offered for sale or included in auctions, and as a well-informed EACer, you may want to be the next new owner! You'll like it - Ray and I feel sure you will!

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

BRUCE HARRIS P. O. Box 215 Lumberton, N. C. 28358

WANTED! WANTED! WANTED! WANTED!

I desperately need a copy of PENNY WHIMSY! Please write, and state price!

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Joseph J. Mickley (1799-1878)

Numismatic News, vol. 11, No. 17 [Who's who in Numismatics, Past & Present]
(Aug. 19, 1963) p 50. by Warren B. Snow

Numismatic Scrapbook vol. 41, No. 471
(May, 1975) pp. 50-52 (on cent/die mothley business)

Am. Jour. Num. (Biographical) ✓
vol 5 p84

* Dates of U.S. Coins & their degrees of Rarity Phila 1858 4pp

Numismatic Obit

Am Jour Num vol 12 p183 — good ✓.

Proceedings ANS 1886 p16 ✓

Recollections of JJM by Frederick M. Bird